

REMARKS

Summary Of Office Action

Claims 1-51 were pending in this application.

The Examiner allowed claims 24, 25, 48, and 49.

Claims 5-18, 21, 22, and 27-47 were objected to for incorporating the rejection of their respective base claim by dependency.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 19, 20, 23, 26, 50, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by an article authored by M. Mattavelli et al. titled *Computational Graceful Degradation For Video Sequence Decoding* (hereinafter "Mattavelli").

Summary Of Applicants' Reply

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 24, 25, 48, and 49.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct a minor typographical error. Applicants also have amended dependent claims 5 and 13 to be in independent form including the limitations of their independent claim, and independent claims 24 and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 5. Independent claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 45, and dependent claim 45 has been accordingly canceled. Independent claim 51 has been amended similarly as claim 26. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Rejections of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 19, 20, 23, 26, 50, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mattavelli.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 45, which had only been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim (there were no prior art rejections against claim 45). Accordingly, amended claim 26 should now be allowable.

Independent claim 51 has been similarly amended as claim 26. Accordingly, claim 51 should now also be allowable.

Regarding independent claims 1, 23, and 50, Mattavelli does not show or suggest such apparatus.

Mattavelli purportedly discloses a software based video decoder that decodes compressed video sequences when "the complexity of the task exceeds the available processing power" (Mattavelli, page 330, column 2, last full paragraph).

The results of Mattavelli's decoder may be "possibly of degraded quality" (*id.*; emphasis added).

The goal of Mattavelli "is to be able to provide ... video and audio with possible degradations Such alternative is certainly much more desirable than ... cutting image portions or simply skipping frames. ... Such abrupt interruptions ... might be caused by the simple fluctuation of the decoding complexity load it is evident the importance of techniques able to filter out decoding peak loads ... without causing perceptually annoying consequences." Mattavelli, page 331, column 1, first full paragraph; emphasis added.

Plainly, Mattavelli does not intentionally degrade received signals as applicants' invention does. Instead, Mattavelli decodes received signals to prevent an abrupt loss of image or audio by a system temporarily incapable of handling the decoding complexity of those received signals. Mattavelli's decoding may or may not result in any signal degradation.

Thus, Mattavelli does not disclose an algorithm (claims 1 and 23) or degradation means (claim 50) for "performing a predetermined signal degradation" (emphasis added) on a received signal.

Applicants' invention intentionally degrades received video and/or audio signals for simulation and analysis purposes.

Mattavelli therefore does not anticipate or render obvious applicants' invention as defined in independent claims 1, 23, and 50.

For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-4, 19, and 20, which depend from claim 1, are also not anticipated by or rendered obvious from Mattavelli.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-4, 19, 20, 23, 26, 50, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

The Objections to Claims 5-18, 21, 22, and 27-47

Claims 5-18, 21, 22, and 27-47 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

These objections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 13 have been amended to be in independent form including the limitations of their base claim (there are no intervening claims). Claims 6-10 and 15 depend from claim 5, and claim 14 depends from claim 13. Accordingly, claims 5-10 and 13-15 should no longer be objectionable.

Independent claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 45. Claims 27-44, 46, and 47 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 26. Accordingly, claims 27-44, 46, and 47 should no longer be objectionable.

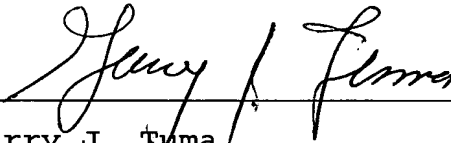
For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1, dependent claims 11, 12, 16-18, 21, and 22, which depend from claim 1, should no longer be objectionable.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 5-18, 21, 22, 27-44, 46, and 47 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1-44 and 46-51 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Garry J. Tuma", is written over a horizontal line.

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